

OPINION/ FORUM

THE CHRONICLE 38 Years

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WSSU Photo by Gerrett Garris

Wide Receiver Tehvyn Brantley celebrates the Rams success on Saturday.

Joy in the Ram Nation

Anyone not impressed with what Winston-Salem State University has accomplished under the leadership of Chancellor Donald R. Reaves is literally blind in one eye and can't see very well out of the other one. Reaves has built a cadre of professionals in all areas of academia, sports and facilities.

Reaves brought Bill Hayes back, who brought Connell Maynor and Bobby Collins to the athletic department. Both of those young men are responsible for the Rams holding two CIAA Championships at the same time (not sure if that's ever happened before). Either way, WSSU is enjoying successes never seen in the past.

Next week, the Rams begin their journey to win the Division II National Championship for a record second time (they didn't win last year but came a game shy of it). No other HBCU that we know of has attempted that feat, let alone accomplished it. These are monumental accomplishments for "TC." Reaves' decision to stay in the CIAA conference can be viewed now as nothing short of "genius." Not only did that move make WSSU more competitive but it saved the necessary money to invest in other things like raising the academic standards and recruitment of students and faculty who ultimately will make the university better.

The amount of positive state and national press that the university, and consequently, this city and state have received because of the Rams' successes cannot go unmentioned or unacknowledged. That's positive press that can't be bought. It is a story that speaks to what this entire city is all about: success in all areas of life, including college athletics.

We are absolutely thrilled about our "TC" and ain't ashamed to say it. We're behind you one thousand percent WSSU. Know that you are appreciated in every way. Hats off to Coach Maynor for another undefeated season, to Coach Collins, reigning CIAA basketball champions; to Carol Davis and the new Enterprise Center, an S.G. Atkins CDC.

There are many, many new developments going on at WSSU and in the coming weeks and months as you've no doubt been reading and there will be more. God bless the chancellor and the WSSU Rams!



Reaves

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"Honey, the baby said her first words!..."

GOP Self-Hate



Bill Fletcher
 Guest Columnist

Leading up to November 6, I found myself focused on the matter of voter suppression and electoral shenanigans committed by the Republicans. This concern was not for nothing. Prior to and on Election Day, there were myriad attempts to subvert the vote, particularly the vote of people of color. On Election Day in Pennsylvania, for instance, there was a voting machine that would convert an Obama vote into a Romney vote (and this was captured on film). Frivolous voter challenges started well before Election Day itself, again targeting African American and Latino voters.

What was most striking about the 2012 election, then, was that in the face of this attack on our right to vote, there was something akin to a popular revolt by the African American and Latino electorate. Latinos voted more than 70 percent for Obama and African Americans 93 percent. But those figures do not tell enough. It was the turnout that was so significant. Despite efforts by the political right to dampen African American enthusiasm for Obama using the issue of same-sex marriage, this tactic failed dismally. And Romney's cynical anti-Latino approach, as evidenced during this primary campaign, came back to bite him in the rear.

It was more than this, however. It was something that you had to feel if you waited in line to vote. I went three times to try to engage in early voting. The first two times the line was out the building and I decided to return at a later

date. On the third time, I thought that I had arrived early enough only to discover that the line started well within the building. I was on line for two hours, and this was early voting. Around the U.S., there were stories like that one. People standing in line for seven hours in order to vote.

In effect what we saw was a counter-attack by the African American and Latino electorate against those who would attempt to disenfranchise us. The obvious intent to eliminate African American and Latino voters, rather than scaring us into submission and docility, energized us to turn out in record numbers. There are many lessons there and one is that we can actually overwhelm the other side by sheer numbers and audacity.

There were many other things about the election which I have reflected upon, but one is a question that I must pose to African

American and Latino Republicans. It is simple: How can you associate with a party that quite consciously set out to disenfranchise African American and Latino voters? I must ask, what level of self-hatred must one have to actively support a party that purged voter lists to eliminate potential Democratic Party supporters, many of who were African American and Latino? I must ask, what level of self-hatred must one have to actively support a party that regularly used coded language in order to appeal to a racist impulse among many white voters?

Get back with me on that, okay?

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is the immediate past president of TransAfrica Forum and the author of "They're Bankrupting Us" - And Twenty Other Myths about Unions." He can be reached at papaq54@hotmail.com.

Republicans Still Don't Get It



Raynard Jackson
 Guest Columnist

With the elections now over, I am stunned with the postmortem coming from the Republican Party and the lack of substantive analysis from its operatives.

Those who follow my writings know that I have written extensively about the shifting demographics of our country and the need for Republicans to adequately address this issue. For this, I have been constantly criticized by fellow Republicans, not for the substance of what I wrote, but for sharing my views with the public.

Romney was by far the biggest loser of this election cycle. How is it possible in the 21st Century to run a national campaign with no Blacks or Hispanics of consequence on staff? Well, Romney managed to do it. And you wonder why Blacks voted against Romney to the tune of 93 percent and Hispanics 70 percent? These groups were often not voting for Obama, but against Romney. The sad and unforgivable part was Romney and his team were not even cognizant that they had no people of color on staff. Republicans are so used to hiring all of their friends and children of their friends, that they have truly become colorblind or just blind to people of color.

Let me be clear: When I say on staff, I mean people with hiring authority, budgetary control, or the ability to get a meeting with the boss put on the calendar. But, it's not just



Romney. The RNC, under Reince Priebus, has no Blacks or Hispanics in powerful staff positions; the House Campaign Committee, under Congressman Pete Sessions? Ditto. The Senatorial Committee, under Sen. John Cornyn? Ditto. So, this issue of lack of diversity is a structural thing that permeates every level of the Republican Party.

The second biggest loser was Black Republicans. The harshest criticism of me has come from Black Republicans who are looking to be validated by Whites in the Republican Party (most of them are in Texas, Florida and the D.C. area). Whites in the party know they can count on them to validate the most extreme behavior and rhetoric coming out of their mouths.

I believe I am the only Black Republican with a national media platform who called for Romney to remove John Sununu as national co-chair of his campaign because of the racist language about President Obama. I am the only one who harshly criticized Romney and Priebus

for not having any Blacks or Hispanics on staff. I am the only one who criticized Romney for speaking before the NAACP without having a message or anything substantive to say. I am the only one who criticized the Party for its dearth of Blacks and Hispanics at the convention over the summer. I am the only one who called for Sarah Palin to sit down and shut up regarding her "shucking and jiving" comment about President Obama. These are just a few examples.

So, to these Blacks that have their daggers constantly aimed at my back, you should know that I have helped to raise more than \$300,000 for Romney's campaign and since December, have helped raise more than \$1 million for Republican candidates this cycle. In other words, I have earned the right to criticize my party.

Post-election, the party leadership is talking without saying anything. Republicans are saying things like: "We need to do a better job communicating our conservative message to minorities." What? Are you kidding me?

Why has the media never asked these Republicans to define what "conservatism" is? But, this highlights the Republican's problem when it comes to diversity. They want to come into our community and tell us what we have to believe, as opposed to asking us what we believe and use that as the basis of building a mutually beneficial relationship.

Until the party actually starts hiring minorities on every level of the party, spending money travelling to meet with minorities, and tones down the incendiary language coming from our party, we will never make any advances with the minority community.

So far, the party is talking loud and saying nothing.

Raynard Jackson is president & CEO of Raynard Jackson & Associates, LLC., a Washington, D.C.-based public relations/government affairs firm. He can be reached through his Web site, www.raynardjackson.com.

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